

Legislative sessions

The Legislature convenes in mid-November for Organization Day, then reconvenes in early January when regular business begins. Long sessions must adjourn by April 29, and short sessions by March 14. Special sessions may be called by the governor.

Between sessions, legislators participate in interim study committees where they develop legislative proposals for the following year.

Types of legislation

Senate Bill/House Bill: Proposed changes to Indiana law are introduced as Senate or House bills.

Legislators may introduce as many bills as they wish during the pre-filing period, however, they are limited on the number after that time.

Senate Joint Resolution/House Joint Resolution: Proposed amendments to Indiana's Constitution are introduced as joint resolutions. A joint resolution must be adopted by two separately elected general assemblies and approved by a majority of Hoosier voters during a statewide general election before the state Constitution can be changed.

Senate Concurrent Resolution/House Concurrent Resolution: Concurrent resolutions address matters of general concern to the Legislature; they deal with subjects as diverse as urging Congress to enact legislation or honoring a high school sports team.

Contacting your state legislators

Legislators value the opinions and suggestions of their constituents. To contact your state Senator, write the Senate, State of Indiana, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785.

Write to your state Representative at the Indiana House of Representatives, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786.

You may call your senator at 800-382-9467 or 317-232-9400. People with hearing or speech impairments can reach the Senate via TDD at 800-548-9517 or 317-232-0404.

To reach your representative by phone, call 317-232-9600. The toll-free numbers are 800-382-9841 for the Republican caucus, and 800-382-9842 for the Democrat caucus.

For more information

If you would like to find out the status of a particular piece of legislation **during the legislative session**, call the Legislative Information Center at 317-232-9856.

Easy-to-use computer terminals also are available to the public at the center, located in Room 230 of the Statehouse. The terminals are linked to the bill tracking system.

Calendars listing bills that are scheduled for committee hearings and floor action are available at the center, too. Copies of bills are available there for 15 cents per page.

Or visit my website at http://www.state.in.us/legislative/senate_republicans/homepages/S09/



*From State Senator
Ronnie J. Alting*

Dear Friends:

Just about every law in Indiana is on the books because a citizen recognized a need and told their legislators, "there ought to be a law...." But the process of making laws, from committee hearings to first, second and third bill readings, can be confusing.

"A Pocket Guide to the Indiana General Assembly" provides some basic information about the legislative process in Indiana, as well as information on how to contact your state legislators.

As your state Senator, I represent you at the Statehouse and value your opinions. Each year, as hundreds of issues come before the General Assembly for consideration, I encourage you to contact me with your thoughts and concerns. Perhaps you may have a suggestion for a law that will make a difference in the lives of Hoosiers.

I hope you will find this guide helpful, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie J. Alting".

Ronnie J. Alting
State Senator

State Senator
Ronnie J.
Alting



*A Pocket Guide
to the
Indiana General Assembly*

The Indiana General Assembly



How a bill becomes a law in Indiana

